

We don't need tantrums; we need co-operation; we need to work together. We have got serious problems. The shutdown has created even more serious problems and, as we run up to the debt crisis, yet one more problem, because 40 or 50 people are throwing a tantrum.

This is the House of Representatives, 435 of us elected to represent the people of America, to do right by them, to do right by this Nation's economy, by the working men and women. Even those who are laid off because of the shutdown want to work.

It is time for us to end this. It is time for us to go to work on the long-term problems.

WHY WE MUST DEFUND OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, when the President and the Democratic-controlled House and Senate forced ObamaCare into law without a single Republican vote, my constituents wrote and called my office, telling me they didn't want a government takeover of health care. They expressed many concerns, including losing a health care plan they liked, higher costs, overbearing regulations that would prevent businesses and their owners' ability to hire workers, and the government making health care decisions for citizens, just to name a few.

My constituents' concerns proved true. The ObamaCare Web site has been up for 2 weeks or more, and for those who were able to get the Web site to work, the reports have proved disappointing and anything but affordable: rate hikes of 260 percent, \$12,600 deductibles, copays up to 40 percent, and zero competition. Perhaps that is why, according to the Daily Mail, on October 11, in the first week, only 51,000 people completed ObamaCare applications.

My constituents continue to write me about their concerns with this bad law, and today, I would like to read a letter from one of my constituents, Lee Stanley. Mr. Stanley is a small business owner from Atlanta, Texas, who is facing difficult decisions due to ObamaCare. Mr. Stanley wrote to my office as follows:

Dear Congressman Hall, I don't know if you are getting any input from small business owners like us regarding ObamaCare. We are really in a dilemma here at Guard-Line.

We found that there are items that we can manufacture here at the same cost as we currently import from Mexico, China, and Pakistan. We would like to bring these jobs back here, but looming in the background is ObamaCare. We employ 85 people in our Atlanta facility. We compete in a world market with distributors or importers that maybe have 15 to 30 employees, and they fall below the 50 employees and, therefore, do not have to pay the \$2,000 penalty for not providing health insurance.

Our industry business model does not provide for employee benefits as it is mostly a minimum-wage industry with profit margins very low.

The situation we are in is that we would have to pay \$170,000 in penalties under ObamaCare. This is another example of the government picking the winners and the losers, and we begin to show up here totally as the losers. There is no way I can be competitive if I have to raise my prices to cover the \$170,000.

Here are my options:

One, don't pay the penalty;

Two, raise my prices and go out of business—85 people lose their jobs;

Three, lay off 15 to 35 employees to get under 50 in order to not pay the penalty, and move more production out of this country;

Four, reduce 35 jobs to part-time, under 30 hours a week, and move more production out of this country.

As you can see from the above options, there is really not a good one. We are having to run our business in a way that does not make very much business sense as we have to always keep in mind the effects of ObamaCare. We are in a position that we can add more jobs here in the USA, and are being penalized for doing that. This country will never be able to completely recover with restrictions on business like that. I am sure we are not the only employer in this situation. I don't know what we can do except express our concerns to our representatives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I will continue to fight to defund as much of this bad law as possible. ObamaCare remains widely, completely unpopular across the country for good reason—it is hurting jobs, hurting pocketbooks of already struggling Americans, and preventing people from making their own health care decisions.

The American people deserve better. Responsible health care reform should do better, that offers true health, job, financial, and personal security.

WORK TOGETHER ON BUDGET MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 17 days ago, I came to the House floor to talk about how disappointed I was that a topic of such importance, the medical device tax repeal or delay, was being reduced to the level of political squabbling over whether we are going to continue the function of the government, but here we go again. We are here again to vote on that same policy 17 days later, but we have further delved into the realm of pettiness because the Republican leadership continues to insist that our economy's future should be tied to whether Members of Congress, Cabinet members, the President, and our staffs should have the same health care insurance that other Federal employees receive.

I am surprised. Are we really going to keep the United States Government shut down and threaten the full faith and credit of our country based on whether Members of Congress, our

staffs, and the President and Cabinet get the same health care that thousands of other Federal employees get? It is bordering on pettiness. It sounds so silly to be able to deal with this.

I was fortunate enough. I worked 23 years at a company at which they not only subsidized my health insurance, but they paid for my family's. Governments all over the country do that. The State of Texas, where I am proud to be from, pays for health insurance for State employees. The City of Houston has a health insurance plan for their employees that they help pay for. Harris County does it. All governments do that. Frankly, I represent a lot of petrochemical refineries and plants. Exxon, Shell, the ones who are serving our area, all of them have "subsidies," as the Republicans call it, for the health care for their employees; and yet, on the floor of the House, we think it is a dirty word.

Our goal with the Affordable Care Act was to have everyone in the country have access to quality health care, not just because you got to work for the government or work for an Exxon or a Shell, which are great companies—everyone. So that was the goal of it. If you look at the national exchanges, if we ever get the computers fixed, we will see that. People will have the option to be able to have the same options that we have as Members of Congress or as Federal employees or that I had in the private business that I helped manage. That is what we are talking about.

But to put that in a continuing resolution to open up the government and to make it that you have to vote for this or we are not going to pay the TSA, who screens us when we go into the airport—they are working, but they are worried about getting their paychecks; so is the military; so are a lot of folks. But to make that the end-all, the be-all—I can't believe our forefathers and our veterans sacrificed for our country to make sure we have this freedom—to lower it to the level of we are not going to vote for this unless we can take away the President's health care or the Cabinet officials' or the Members of Congress'.

Our constituents expect us to act more responsibly. We should be ashamed of what this House of Representatives has come to over the last number of months, because we need to talk about making sure our country continues to grow. What is so sad is that, last week, some of us were briefed that every week of the government shutdown costs 0.3 percent of our gross domestic product. We want jobs, but here we are, 2 weeks and going on 3 weeks into the shutdown, and we are adding to that unemployment because of what the Federal Government is doing.

Again, we should be embarrassed at what the House of Representatives is doing. Let us pass a continuing resolution. Let us pay our debts that this House of Representatives has voted for.